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Fall Festival celebrates community spirit

James Geitzen has a lot of experience with local festivals and public concerts, but he readily admits that the Plymouth Fall Festival continues to impress him.

"The heart and soul of the Fall Festival are the non-profit and community group members," Geitzen said. "They work hard all year preparing for the weekend event."

He isn't exaggerating in that estimation. Volunteers from both the morning and noon Rotary clubs, the Kiwanis members, the Lions Club and the Civitans have been planning the weekend activities since last year.

The groups' activities have become a tradition at the event which will mark 64 years in the community Sept. 6, 7 and 8 and draw more than 50,000 people to downtown Plymouth during the weekend.

The heart and soul of the Fall Festival are the non-profit and community group members.

As Geitzen and Plymouth Fall Festival Chairman Eric Joy are proud to explain, this is the largest festival in the area and is the major fundraiser for most of the civic groups. Participation in the various events provides donations, scholarships and community benefits all year long.

"The festival is about community," Joy, in his fifth year at the helm of the

festival, said. "There is nothing like seeing families enjoying the events and knowing that we have provided a good time and really helped a good cause, well, several good causes," Joy said.

In addition to the traditional Chicken Barbeque, the Spaghetti Dinner, the Pancake Breakfast, Bingo and the Taste Fest, other groups, too, set up smaller booths during the festival attempting to generate funds to help fund their group activities.

"It takes a lot of people to make a community work," Geitzen said. "Some are called to volunteer for a community group, others make donations to our service organizations, but the simplest way to make an impact in the community is by buying a chicken or spaghetti dinner, go to the pancake breakfast or

See **Community**, page 5



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Community from page 3

attend the taste fest,” Geitzen said.

This year, as usual, the nationally famous Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps will again be selling their delicious roasted almond during the festival and the Boy Scout Troop 743 will have a concession booth selling smoothies, fries, corn dogs and steak and chicken pitas along with lemonade and other treats.

Plymouth Canton Little League will sponsor the Bingo games from 6-9 p.m. at the Gathering to help fund the leagues for the year and the Optimist Club will be selling hot and cold cider and donuts to help fund their charitable causes dedicated to the welfare of children.

New Morning School will be at the festival with the traditional Spin Art Table which attracts crowds of “artistic” young visitors during the weekend.

“The most important thing,” Joy



said, “is that all the proceeds from all these volunteers working at the booths during the weekend, all go back into the community making it a better place for everyone.”

Geitzen, president of JAG Entertainment which books professional bands for performances during

community concerts and other events during the year, agreed.

“The Plymouth Fall Festival really is a special event. It is all volunteers, from civic groups and clubs, all working together for one weekend,” he said. “It really is what being part of a community is all about.”



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Festival funds scholarships, civic donations

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Many students have benefited during the past six decades from the Rotary Chicken Barbeque proceeds, thanks to volunteers who serve nearly 11,000 barbeque chicken dinners on Chicken Sunday.

David Batts, chair of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club Foundation, noted that nearly 70 percent of money raised from the Plymouth Fall Festival barbeque supports student scholarships.

"Volunteering is a way of giving back," Batts said of the 400-500 volunteers who assist in the chicken barbeque, in the 64th year.

Interact, the Rotary high school arm at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, has barbeque volunteers and high school sports teams help, too, with



Photo by Helen Yancy

setup the Saturday before the Sunday, Sept. 8, event.

Batts said he gets, "Self-satisfaction. I like watching young people learn. A lot of them have a good time. They get a lot out of it, especially if you take the time to explain it."

Batts, in money management after

an auto industry career, added of youth volunteering, "It helps them grow. It's the big picture of helping other people succeed who may not have the same opportunity."

Some \$70,000 is raised from the barbeque annually. Vocational and merit scholarships are awarded from pro-

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ceeds, as well as some academic scholarships. "We feel children with 4.5 (grade point) don't need a lot of help," Batts said.

The three separate committees who work yearlong on scholarship awards look out for the 3.2 GPA students and if the candidates are working hard at their education, added Batts.

Disaster relief efforts, the Days for Girls International initiative (offering sustainable menstrual care), the YMCA and many others also benefit from chicken barbeque fundraising, said Batts of the other funds generated.

Businessman Jim Jabara has deep Plymouth roots and although a Kiwanian knows the barbeque history. Jabara recalled recently the late Harold Guenther was Up North and ran into a county agricultural agent, learning a small northern community Rotary club sponsored such a barbeque.



Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque Chairman Kent Early maps out grilling strategy.

"It's all hands on deck for the community," commented Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok, a Plymouth Noon Rotarian and immediate past District Governor for Rotary International District 6400.

Sincok is pleased his club and its

Foundation provide scholarship help for students wishing to become paramedics or chefs or other vocational careers.

"There's scholarships for them

See **Benefits**, page 8

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Benefits from page 7

because of this event,” he said. “It’s a community picnic that gets everybody together.”

Rotarian Rich Eisiminger is turning over the barbeque committee chair role to Kent Early, with Mike Muma also a recent event chair

“It was a great eight-year run,” said Eisiminger, who owns a Plymouth-based real estate business. He agrees with Sincock about supporting vocational students.

“I was a vocational student myself” in carpentry, said Eisiminger. He notes the current need of people in skilled trades and the importance of that training.

As he progressed through the ranks on the barbeque committee, Eisiminger planned the party for adult volunteers which takes place after the barbeque at the nearby Wilcox House grounds. That offers a cold drink and

meal, and is customarily planned in a Rotarian committee member’s eighth year in leadership rotation.

“It’s just a gratifying feeling to supply a total of eight years of service,” he said of the “Service Above Self” creed of Rotary. “It goes into my Christian faith. It goes into what I try to be every day. Here to serve. It gets me in line with my Creator.”

Eisiminger is grateful to the stu-

dents that help, the 100-some Rotarians, as well as their family members.

“It is something to see,” he said of teen volunteers. “A lot of them you can see it’s a joy. It’s something that’s needed in today’s younger generation, just as it was in mine.”

Eisiminger added, “Hopefully we have good weather for our Sept. 8 Sunday.”



Photo by Helen Yancy

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Now that's Italian

14th Annual Spaghetti Dinner served by Rotary club

The Saturday Night Rotary Spaghetti Dinner has become a tradition at the Plymouth Fall Fest.

This year, the dinner promises to be bigger, better and more entertaining than ever, explained Spaghetti Dinner Chairman Kate Rosevear. The dinner will take place from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 under the huge tent behind E.G. Nick's restaurant.

Dinner for adults consists of fresh Mama Mucci's pasta with marinara sauce along with new and improved "meatier" Italian meatballs for the meat lovers in the crowd. Also included is a tossed salad with Italian dressing, "warm out of the oven" garlic butter-brushed dinner rolls which are also a new feature this year, a huge



Members of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. are ready to welcome dinner guests this year.

Jimmy John's Chocolate Chip Cookie, a bottle of Absopure spring water and coffee, decaf or tea. Ask servers to skip the meatballs and the dinner can be completely vegetarian friendly, Rosevear said.

By special arrangement with E.G. Nick's, patrons may purchase drink tickets inside the restaurant and redeem them for beer, wine or soft drinks at the tent entry.

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members of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., also known as the morning Rotary club. The Italian party atmosphere is enhanced by strolling minstrels, Giuseppe the greeter, a “meatball toss” for youngsters and “lotsa little surprises.”

This year, the dinner organizers have made an extra effort to be eco-friendly by using biodegradable food delivery boxes and utensils. The take-away bag is a completely reusable, large poly-cloth shopping bag made from recycled plastic bottles. Even the trash bags are bio-degradable this year, Rosevear said.

Drive through carry out service is available from 4 until 7:30 p.m. Saturday or until dinners are sold out. Patrons can drive into the E.G. Nick's parking lot from Harvey Street to pick up meals to take home to enjoy.

Spaghetti Dinner tickets are \$10 per adult if purchased in advance; \$12.50 per adult on the day of and at the

event. Again this year, children 10 and younger eat at no cost, limit one free kids meal per one paid adult meal.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of the morning Rotary club or at Travel Leaders, (734) 455-5810, the Michigan Philharmonic (734) 451-2112, E.G. Nick's (at the bar), the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce or at the Fall Fest Dinner Ticket booth at Penniman and Main Street during Fall Fest.

Most of the proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner will be used to provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton area youngsters who have overcome major challenges in order to graduate from high school.

In addition, funds will be used to supply books, equipment and teacher training for the two schools recently built by the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. in Ghana, Africa and for numerous Rotary projects in the Plymouth-Canton, Detroit and Southeast Michigan area communities.

Founded in 1996, The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. remains one of the youngest service clubs in Plymouth. Members actually enjoy getting up early each Tuesday morning and enjoying a companionable breakfast, Rosevear said.

Meetings take place from 7 until 8:15 a.m. at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church St. Door 16. Individuals who subscribe to an attitude of “Service Above Self” are invited to “try us on.” No reservations needed.

“The Spaghetti Dinner is one of the most important means of raising awareness about our club and funding our many community-focused and international Rotary Peace Through Service projects and undertakings,” explained Rosevear who is also a past president of the club.

For additional information about the dinner or club membership, contact Rosevear at (734) 455-5810.



The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees extends congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 2019 Plymouth Community Fall Festival.

This year the Festival continues the tradition of providing an opportunity for non-profit community organizations to fundraise in order to continue the great work they bring to our community on a daily basis.



Baffling Bill

Magician promises mystery at library

As has become a tradition during the Fall Festival, the Plymouth District Library will offer free entertainment beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 when Baffling Bill the Magician takes to the festival main stage. The support of the Friends of the Library is making this family event possible.

Baffling Bill has been amazing audiences for more than 30 years. Magic was his calling, and it stayed with him from early childhood, on through middle school, high school, and college.

Bill's interest in magic began at age 5, when a kindergarten classmate performed a magic trick for show and tell. The classmate made a ball disappear and reappear. This feat of magic left an impression on Bill that would not be forgotten. He started requesting magic sets for Christmas and birthdays as he grew up.

He went on to attend Norm Clothier's Magic Camp, checked out magic books at the library, and put together shows for the neighborhood kids. Throughout junior high and high school Bill would win talent shows with his magic act.



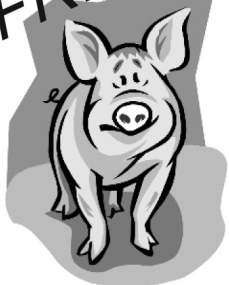
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Baffling Bill isn't planning on raindrops...but if it does rain Saturday, his magic act will be moved to the library main level meeting room.

Baffling Bill helped pay his way through five years of college performing shows and working at magic shops. He now performs more than 500 shows a year for corporate events, libraries, schools, family reunions and more. For more information about Bill, go to www.bafflingbillmagic.com

"Baffling Bill is an outstanding artist," explained Liz



Gus the Bunny

Pitcher, youth services librarian. "I have seen him many times. Along with his talented assistant, Kym, and Gus, the bunny, audience members of all ages will be surprised and delighted."

No registration required for this Fall Festival event - in the chance of inclement weather, the show will move to the library main level meeting room.

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Civitan's Taste Fest moves downtown this year

For nearly half a century, the Plymouth Canton Civitan Club members have worked in tireless service to impact the lives of those in need in the community.

This year is no different as the club members bring the annual Plymouth Taste Fest to the Fall Festival. The event is the main fundraiser for the Civitans, who will also have a booth up on Main Street where they traditionally sell multiple items also as fundraisers for the group.

This year the Taste Fest has moved into the huge tent behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest Street and has more than 18 participants who have all donated items from their menus to help with the Civitans' good work. Visitors can sample the menu items from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.

Pre sale tickets for the event are \$15

and \$5 for those 5 through 10 years of age. Children younger than 5 eat for free with an adult ticket. If purchased at the door, tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for those ages 5-10. The advance tickets can be purchased at E.G. Nick's, 500 Forest St. or at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, 850 West Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

This year the event will also feature a live band and for the first time, a cash bar. Participating restaurants this year

include: Applebee's Canton; Beyond Borders-Latin Street Food; Bode's Corned Beef House; Canton Bistro; Coffee + Cream; E.G. Nick's; Grand Traverse Pie Company; Granite City Food & Brewery; J.B.'s Smokehouse; Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches; Leo's Coney Island; Mama Mucci; Picnic Basket Market; Scramblers; The Cupcake Station; Vintner's Canton Winery; Westborn Market and Whey Better Bakery.

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Sweet success

Kiwanis members have been 'flipping' for 40 years

After 40 years, these guys know how to flip a pancake,

For four decades, members of the Plymouth Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth have been serving up plates of hot pancakes and sausage at The Gathering from 7 a.m. until noon on the Saturday of the Fall Festival.

The price for the meal, \$6 in advance and \$7 the day of the breakfast, includes three large, fluffy pancakes, sausage, syrup, butter, orange juice and coffee or milk. Children younger than 5 eat at no cost with the purchase of an adult ticket for the meal.

The volunteers begin setting up for the breakfast Friday night after Bingo sponsored by the Plymouth Canton Little League is finished. Volunteers haul in all the equipment needed including huge griddles and serving equipment. The products come from Bob Evans where the Kiwanis clubs purchase the pancake mix and sausages.

Both the Kiwanis Clubs in Plymouth participate in the



Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth founder Jim Jabara, 90, flips pancakes at the annual Fall Festival Pancake Breakfast in The Gathering.

breakfast and there are a lot of familiar faces behind the griddles, although the pancake breakfast was reportedly

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started by the evening club. Both clubs belong to the Kiwanis Foundation which supports the Salvation Army, Methodist Children's Society Home in Redford, high school graduate scholarships, the Kiwanis high school group known as The Key Club. The clubs also help support First Step, a shelter for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, along with several other charities. Kiwanis clubs are dedicated to helping the children of the world and participate in the international effort to elimi-

nate Iodine Deficiency Disorder and contribute to Mott's Children's Hospital.

Volunteers from some of the groups Kiwanis helps financially also help manage the huge crowds that fill The Gathering. One estimate was that the Kiwanis serve more than 3,000 breakfasts each year.

Tickets for the pancake breakfast are available from the booth at Main Street and Penniman during the festival and by email from markriegal@gmail.com.

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Kiwanis serves the children of the world. The Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation is large supporter of local individuals in need, including Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital, local scholarships at PCEP, First Step, Salvation Army, Kids Against Hunger, and the Key Club at PCEP.

Marching to a different drum

Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps travels country celebrating history

Among the traditions at the Plymouth Fall Festival is the tempting aroma of sweet-selling roasted almonds wafting from the booth manned by members of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Again this year, the renowned group will be selling the treats to help fund their performances throughout the area and the country. The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is an all-youth marching musical group comprising students ranging in age from 12-18. Founded in 1971, the Fife and Drum Corps has become a staple in the rich history of Plymouth and the members represent the community when they travel across the country to perform.

Every summer, the corps members take an educational tour of the eastern United States, performing at many historic sites. The group just returned from Virginia and Washington D.C., performing at George Washington's Mount Vernon, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and James Monroe's Highland. The corps members also met with the U.S. Army's Fife and Drum Corps, the Old Guard, and viewed one of their military practices and played with their fifes and drums corps. The musicians also visited Arlington National Cemetery and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and capped off the tour in Yorktown, VA, with performances at the



The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps traveled to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home this year.

Yorktown Battlefield and American Revolution Museum of Yorktown.

This educational tour is the highlight of the corps performance season, and the members work all year to prepare for it. The tour of historic and solemn sights in Virginia and Washington D.C. this year was described as a unique learning opportunity for corps members.

The teens practice Monday evening at Salem High School beginning in January, marching as a group and in separate sectionals for each instrument - fifes, drums and guard. The corps prepares a special routine each year which is performed at each of the performance sites on the tour. Corps members not only learn about American history at each performance site, but they also interact with members of the local com-

munity and proudly represent their hometown of Plymouth.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps travels many miles each year performing in numerous parades, historical and patriotic celebrations, concerts, and other civic events in Plymouth, the State of Michigan, and the United States. The Corps performs in the Plymouth Good Morning America Parade on the Fourth of July, in downtown Plymouth at Kellogg Park and at the Plymouth Fall Festival. More information about the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, including videos, pictures, and a calendar of events, can be seen on Facebook @pfdc.us.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps almond booth will be open all weekend during regular festival hours.



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Club of Plymouth



The Rotary Club of Plymouth

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SEPT. 8

2019



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Plymouth Fall Festival 2019 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet stage Kellogg Park

Friday, Sept. 6

7 p.m.

Dale Hicks Band Presented by:
(Presented by Lake Trust Credit Union)

Saturday, Sept. 7

9 a.m.

Optimist Pet show.

11 a.m.

Chiefettes, saberttesm, Rocket's Pompon squads

Noon

Plymouth Fife and Drum Corp

2 p.m.

Dance Beat/Forever After Productions

3:30 p.m.

The Plymouth Library presents

**If inclement weather the program will be held at the Plymouth District Library.*

4:30 p.m.

Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers

7 p.m.

Big Ray and the Motor City Kings
(Presented by Lake Trust Credit Union)

Sunday, Sept. 8

Noon

Jill Jack
(Presented by Lake Trust Credit Union)

2 – 3 p.m.

Spotlight Players

4 – 5 p.m.

CORE Nutrition and Fitness

4 – 6 p.m.

The Johnnies

Schedule of Events

Fall Festival Hours

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 - Noon until 10 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 - 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 - 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Community Booths – Noon
Main Street

Craft Show – Noon until Dusk
Main Street

Pre-car show registration and Cruise
Main Street

Carnival Rides – 3 until 10 p.m.

Bingo – 6 until 9 p.m.
The Gathering

Civitan's Taste Fest – 6 until 8 p.m.
Veteran's Tent

Smokin' Mirrors – 8 until 11 p.m.
Veteran's Tent

Saturday

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast – 7 a.m. until Noon
The Gathering

Craft Show – 9 a.m. until Dusk
Main Street

Community Booth – All Day
Main Street

Car Show – All Day Main Street

Optimist Pet Show – 9 a.m.
Main Stage

Carnival Rides Open – 11 a.m.

Spaghetti Dinner – 4 until 8 p.m.
Veterans' Tent

Power Play – 8 until 11 p.m.
Veterans' Tent

Sunday

Craft Show – 8-9 a.m. until Dusk
Main Street

Community Booths – All Day
Main Street

Car Show – All Day
Main Street

Carnival Rides Open – 11 a.m.

Rotary Chicken Barbeque – 11 a.m. until sold out
The Gathering

There is a drive through, take out location for Chicken Barbeque dinners at West Middle School.

Carnival tickets are four for \$5 with ticket packages available. Rides cost from two to four tickets each but ticket packages are available at the main booth. On Sunday, \$25 ride wristbands will be available.

Free parking and free shuttle service continues every 20 minutes from Praise Baptist Church 45000 N Territorial Road, beginning half an hour before and after regular festival hours all weekend.



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Detroit Home

At your 'service'

Church offers free parking, shuttle service all weekend

Who needs Uber or Lyft when volunteers from Faith Baptist Church are available to provide an air-conditioned, comfortable ride to and from all the Fall Festival fun?

As has become a tradition, the church will provide free parking and transport visitors to the festival from the church location at 45000 North Territorial Road, about a quarter mile west of Sheldon Road.

The large shuttle vans driven by church volunteers will provide a ride into the center of Fall Festival action.

"We think this helps folks enjoy the festival without added stress of finding a parking spot," explained church member James Hooper who volunteers with the shuttle service every year. "It's part of our

church outreach program just to let people know we are here."

As the festival will close an hour early this year on both Friday and Saturday, the shuttles will accommodate riders until "the last person shows up needing a ride," Hooper said. He said he expected it to be a bit earlier, but that the shuttles would run every 20 minutes or so from the church to the drop off point near city hall, right in the center of the action.

"We will pick people up there, too, who are ready to return to their cars," he said. The church will welcome those waiting in line inside the air-conditioned building, he added.

Most of the public parking lots in the city will be manned by various service clubs charging \$5 or so to park. Those

funds are used to support the community service projects of the clubs like Special Olympics, Lions, Rotary and Civitans. Without those volunteers, flow through the lots would be subject to parking jams and even double parking. The volunteers keep a close watch on parking availability and keep traffic in control, according to Festival Chairman Eric Joy.

"If I have one piece of advice, it is for people to take the shuttle," Joy said. "It makes the entire event far more pleasant for everyone and the church volunteers do a great job."

The shuttle will operate for about a half-hour before the festival opens and for about half hour after it closes, or until all the riders have been returned to their vehicles.



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Seasoning is 'Chicken Sunday' secret

It's no secret that the Rotary Chicken Barbeque brings 11,000 people clamoring for the meals but that special seasoning sprinkled on the chickens remains one of the best kept secrets anywhere.

Kent Early, chairman of the Rotary Chicken Barbeque Committee this year, said the recipe for the seasoning certainly pre-dates his 15-year tenure with the committee.

"The recipe is passed down from one committee to the next and it is never revealed," he said.

The seasoning is such a secret that the spices are mixed together in an undisclosed location on Friday afternoon, prior to the Sunday grilling. When the smoke eaters light the grills early Sunday morning, the chickens have been coated with the

secret flavorings.

"I will tell you that people love it," Early, a civil engineer, said, "but that's about all I can reveal."

In addition to Early, members of the Rotary Chicken Barbeque Committee sworn to keep the secret of the seasoning this year include Brandon Bunt who is handling all the purchasing for the event; Gary Stolz who in charge of ticket sales; Andy Savage who coordinates all the various volunteers and groups; Eric Kostoff who handles the organization of all the equipment, permits and signs and Danny Hyman, who does anything else that might be needed. They are helped, too, by Mike Muma who was the committee chairman last year.

Early stressed the gratitude of the committee and the club to the hun-

dreds of volunteers who help and especially to Paul Opdyke from Serene Surroundings.

"I bet he puts 100 guys on this for us doing everything from unloading and loading equipment, taking care of all the tables and chairs, boxes of food and supplies.

"I cannot tell you everything these guys do. And when it comes to clean up Monday morning, we are done by 10:30 only because of Paul and his guys. Otherwise, we would be there all day."

He said that this year the committee has tweaked a few things to make service a little smoother but the half-chicken meal will taste like it has for six decades since the barbeque began.

"As for the reason, well, that's a secret."

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Pure 'Joy'

Chairman enjoys community benefits of festival

Fall Festival Chairman Eric Joy has been involved with the event for decades and been at the helm of the event for several years.

His favorite part of the event, however, is the aftermath.

"Between the Rotary clubs and the Kiwanis, the Civitans and Bingo, with just those groups, there is probably close to \$100,000 that is coming right back into the community in scholarships for high school kids, the Little League, football groups, wrestling teams, cheerleading, just from this festival," he said.

"The money goes in a circle; into the clubs during the festival and then right back out to helping so many activities and charities in the community," he added. "I think that is what makes

Plymouth so special and this festival what it is."

He said it is difficult to imagine a community where nearly 1,000 volunteers join together as happens at the Fall Festival annually.

"It's just a real community effort," he said.

Joy said he walks the festival from end to end each year about 12 or 15 times during the weekend, just to watch the interaction and the crowds enjoy the event.

"I stop at every booth and often see so many familiar faces, volunteers that come back year after year, even when their children are no longer involved with the groups," he said.

His expert advice on enjoying the

event is the same, he said, every year:

"Use the free parking at Praise Baptist Church and the free shuttle. We only ever have one constant concern at this event and that is parking. That is so easy to avoid and this is the most underutilized benefit we offer:

"Just use the shuttle. It's free and it is so convenient. It drops people off right in the center of the festival and runs about every 20 minutes," Joy said.

He added that his entire family supports his work with the festival, including his wife, Dawn, and four children, ages, 17, 15, 13, and 11.

"They like to brag to their friends that their Dad runs the festival," he said.



Eric Joy

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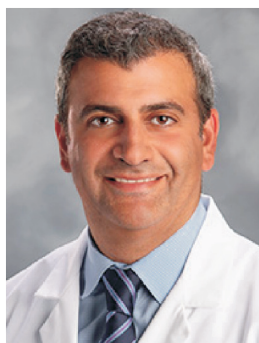
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Veterans' Tent to host live music Friday, Saturday

Fall Festival weekend will be full of activity and nowhere busier than the tent behind E.G. Nicks restaurant on Forest Street.

Following the Civitans Taste Fest in the huge temperature-controlled tent, Smokin' Mirrors will take to the stage and entertain the adults-only crowd until 11 p.m. Friday.

"It's a great time and this band really draws a crowd," said Frank Agostini who along with Tony Belli, brings in the tent each year to help the civic groups with their charity efforts and then host a huge party.

The only fee, other than for drinks, is a \$5 cover charge which goes to the Plymouth Canton Vietnam Veterans group, which is a cause both Agostini and Belli support.

"These guys put it on the line and whatever we can do for them, we do. This has turned into their biggest fundraiser of the year," Agostini said. "We have a lot of people who throw in \$20 when they realize what the small cover charge is really for," he added.

Smokin' Mirrors is a Detroit-based four piece cover band that formed in 2010. The band features Steve Ritz on drums, Jeff Back on lead guitar, Ron Cox on bass with vocals by Julie Hawes. The band performs Motown and country hits



Smokin' Mirrors

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On Saturday night, following the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. Spaghetti Dinner, Power Play Detroit will take to the tent stage to entertain the crowd.

Power Play Detroit is a live cover band dedicated to classic rock 'n' roll of the times. The group was voted Best Local Band by WDIV audiences in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and again this year. The band was also voted as the Best Cover Band in 2018 and 2019.

Power Play Detroit include Mike Smith on lead guitar, April Hudson on vocals, Gary Kosten on bass guitar and Bob Olds on drums.

"They really are a great band," Agostini said, "and this has become the place to be for a great time.

"It is a party weekend for us and we can all have a great time and give something back to the community. We are hosting the Civitans Taste Fest for the first time this year and they have almost 20 restaurants participating. We've been able to help the Rotary Club with the Spaghetti Dinner, too, and have been able to upgrade the meals for them.

"This weekend is about giving back," Agostini said, "and we really enjoy our part in it."



Power Play



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Best friends

Optimists' Pet Show set Saturday

No matter the size or species, the Optimist Pet Show brings out beloved pets every year during the Plymouth Fall Festival. The show will take place beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 on the Main Stage in Kellogg Park. There will be a pet parade around the park prior



to the contest which includes prizes for largest, smallest, shortest, tallest, longest and shortest ears and tail, most unusual, best costume and best trick. Cats, dogs, reptiles, fish, rabbits and even rodents are all welcome.

Representatives from The Humane Society as well as dog and cat rescue organizations will be on site with adopted and adoptable pets. Pets can be registered just prior to the show.

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local clubs whose members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves.

The local Plymouth-Canton Club has served the schools and community since 1949 with programs such as: Spelling Bees, Oratorical Contests, Math Jeopardy, Bike Safety Rodeos, Pet Shows, and numerous other community-centered events.





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Welcome to the neighborhood

Local restaurants attract diners from throughout area

The Plymouth area is fortunate enough to share some of the finest restaurants in the state, several manned by chefs with impressive credentials and experience. While the cuisine may differ, and the menus change, one thing has remained constant and continues each year: Their spirit of community and generosity.

Among the many restaurants that have donated sample items from their kitchens and sent staff members to act as ambassadors and serve guests during the Civitans Taste Fest are several listed among those that follow. These businesses are giving back to the community and their efforts are helping to fund scholarships for local students, help fund holiday events in the community, donate to amateur sports teams and to school programs, among many other local good causes.

Many of the other civic groups presenting events this weekend are quick to note that the local restaurants are among the very first to donate and help charitable efforts throughout the community.

They deserve special recognition and a special thanks for their efforts during the Fall Festival and for all the other contributions and help they provide throughout the year.

They are among the very best neighbors this community could have and when visitors return to Plymouth, these establishments should be among the first places considered for a quick lunch or a great dinner.

They offer it all, with menu items from around the globe and down-home American cooking. Enjoy, and remember, you are among friends and neighbors.

E.G. Nick's
500 Forest Ave.
Plymouth
(734) 414-6400

One of the very best neighbors in the community is E.G. Nick's on Forest Street in Plymouth which has become a tradition for Fall Festival visitors.

This year, again, the restaurant will host the Veterans' Tent (formerly the

Party Tent) in the back parking lot and will again feature live music from Smokin' Mirrors on Friday and Power Play on Saturday. The tent always draws a large crowd of regulars who know that this is the place to have a good time after visiting the festival, attending the Taste Fest Friday or the Rotary Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday.

E.G. Nick's continues to bring large

crowds back to the restaurant all year for lunch, dinner and drinks at the longest bar in the city. Locals know that the menu of favorites is often enhanced with new items or specials added regularly by Chef Frank Agostini.

E. G. Nicks also boasts an extensive list of specially-brewed craft beers and unique cocktails, along with an



impressive list of premium wines. There are specialty cocktails nearly every day.

The menu includes crowd-favorite items like Caprese ravioli, with a pesto sauce that brings diners back again and again. The exceptional flatbread pizzas offer unique toppings like bacon, lettuce and tomato or Caesar salad along with the expected tradi-

tional pepperoni and cheeses. The unique flatbread crust on these treats has made them one of the biggest sellers on the late-night and lunch menu, Agostini said.

The menu still includes the customer-favorite planked whitefish, chosen as the best in the state by food critics and the award-winning spare ribs, Bang-Bang Shrimp and bourbon pot

roast nachos.

Agostini will probably look familiar to many who may recognize him from his many TV and guest appearances on various morning show cooking segments.

E.G. Nick's menu includes several items which are gluten free and some vegan dishes, which are becoming more and more popular, Agostini said.

Greek Islands Eatery
306 South Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 335-6303

The newly-renovated Greek Island Eatery is located downtown on Main Street across from Kellogg Park. The new interior includes bar service so that patrons can enjoy beer and wine with their lunch or dinner.

The paintings of Greek gods on the high-ceilinged interior set the tone for the restaurant which offers a full menu of lunch and dinner items. The paintings are always a conversation starter at the full-service restaurant which offers an extensive menu and specialty weekend brunch dishes.

Choices on the newly-redesigned menu include American favorites along with many homemade Greek specialties including genuine Greek moussaka, pastitsio, spinach pie and gyros. They also serve a wide array of salads, pitas, sandwiches and burgers, all at great prices.

The restaurant offers carry outs and has a banquet room and does catering.

Greek Island servers provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and service is always prompt and courteous. Locals have come to depend on the quick service. Greek Islands is also family friendly, offering accommodations for children and families.

Hermann's Old Town Grille
195 West Liberty St.
Plymouth
(734)451-1213

Hermann's Old Town Grille is well-known to Plymouth locals and visitors alike for both the huge, drooling moose painted on the exterior wall and the extensive menu of fresh and well-prepared food.

This is a place that simply cannot be missed because of the exceptional atmosphere where too many unique items to list are on display along with the great food. Hermann's has been a part of the Plymouth community for decades, and for decades has been celebrated as the place to go for a good time, cold beer, a delicious burger or special menu item where fun is served as a side dish with every order.



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Hermann's from page 33



The menu includes a full selection of specialty burgers, fresh salads, oven-baked pizza and unique sandwiches, all made to order.

The OTB (Old Town Burger) comes in a variety of configurations, all of which have made Hermann's famous. There are also special menu feature items

every day.

The restaurant takes pride in the comfortable, eclectic atmosphere where people can enjoy themselves and relax while enjoying good company and good food. This is a place where "everybody knows your name" and is really glad to see you.

Hermann's is open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 2 a.m. Sundays.

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For a napkin-testing burger, visit the vintage diner-style Burger Loft, located above The Inn at St. John's Pro Shop. Making burger history since summer 2013, the Burger Loft offers a fresh take on the motif of a classic burger joint. Open during golf season from 4-9 p.m. on Mondays, and from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The loft is closed Sundays.

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delivered fresh every morning, and hand-sliced daily at the restaurant.

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See **Restaurants**, page 36

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Restaurants from page 35

Karl's Cabin
6005 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth
(734) 455-8450

Built in the 1940s, Karl's Cabin is truly a Michigan Made log cabin roadhouse restaurant, bar and grill. Located just minutes west of downtown Plymouth and



just east of Ann Arbor; the restaurant is a favorite of patrons from throughout the area.

Guests can enjoy rustic charm, friendly service and a large menu including hand-cut grilled steaks, fresh seafood, BBQ, fresh pasta, big salads, burgers, artisan sandwiches and daily chef-created features. Slow-roasted prime rib is served every Friday and Saturday night. Dinners are priced from \$8 to \$20 while lunch prices range from \$6-\$15.

The chef prefers to shop locally when feasible and often brings in organic and natural foods for a substantial gluten free menu. Karl's offers 20 Michigan craft beers on draft including Bell's, Founders and Short's. The extensive wine list includes 60 wines to choose from with many wines from Michigan and more than 20 wines poured by the glass.

Karl's entertainment includes dueling pianos and live bands on weekends.

Karl's is highly recommended by diners as offering some of the finest meals in

the area.

Reservations are recommended.

Leo's Coney Island
41496 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, Mi
(734) 416-8200

The family recipe for the famous Greek Salad dressing along with the chili and other great homemade items has



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been the backbone of success for Leo's Coney Island. The Stassinopoulos brothers, Leo and Pete, have built a reputation for quality food and service.

Leo's Coney Island has evolved from a limited menu offering the basics of Coney Islands, fries, burgers and Greek Salads to a wide menu. Selections include a full line of items for the whole family including Greek specialties, breakfast, and a children's menu. Leo has made it his mission to provide the experience of a Coney Island, while also offering delicious homemade soups and family favorites.

Leo's is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday and 24 hours Wednesday through Saturdays.

P F Chang's
17905 Haggerty Road
Livonia, Mi
(248) 675-0066

With roots in Chinese cooking, the culinary landscape at P.F. Chang's



stretches across Asia with diverse, culturally inspired recipes.

P.F. Chang's Livonia serves a variety of Asian-inspired dishes, including hand-rolled sushi, Vietnamese-style soups and bowls, traditional Chinese dim sum, wok-fired chicken and beef entrées, and family-style noodles and rice, all made fresh every day.

P.F. Chang's honors the 2,000-year-old Asian tradition of wok cooking and believes in making food from scratch every day in every restaurant. With a "Farm to Wok™" food philosophy at its core, P.F. Chang's chefs hand-roll dim

sum, hand chop and slice all vegetables and meats, handcraft every sauce and wok-cook each recipe, every day in every restaurant using wholesome, fresh ingredients.

P.F. Chang's is known for Chang's Lettuce Wraps, a secret Chang family recipe that hasn't changed since the very first menu. Other signature classics include Mongolian Beef, Chang's Spicy Chicken, Crispy Honey Shrimp, and Cecilia's Dumplings.

Make a reservation to dine in for lunch, happy hour, or dinner, or order takeout online at pfchangs.com.

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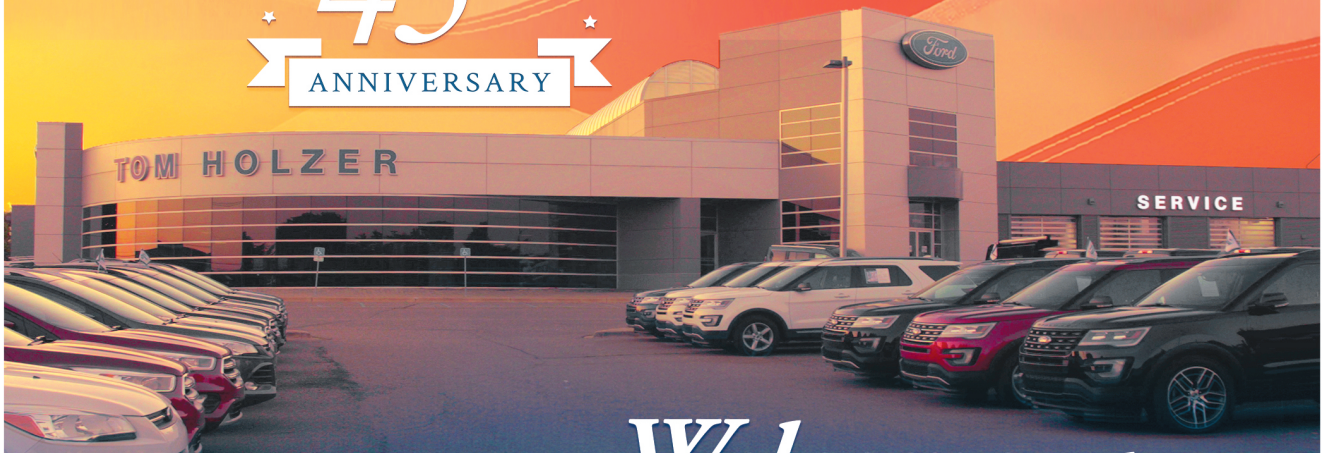
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